



## @USNPEOPLE WEEKLY WIRE

### 1) Improving Overseas Screening Process / 24 JUL 14 [[LINK](#)]

By Rear Adm. Dave Steindl, Commander Navy Personnel Command

In direct response to feedback, we convened an overseas screening working group that recommended two immediate initiatives, which CNP approved and will be pushed via NAVADMIN in early August.

\*\*\*To provide more lead time, a Sailor who is identified for an overseas billet will receive a "Letter of Intent" from Navy Personnel Command, authorizing the Sailor to immediately begin the overseas screening process to include applying for passports and visas.

\*\*\*To keep the process moving and to prevent delays, Sailors must complete their overseas screening within 30 days of receiving the letter and families must complete screenings within 60 days.

### 2) Gain an Edge - Prepare Now for Advancement Exam / 24 JUL 14 [[LINK](#)]

Sailors should start preparing for the exam by navigating to the "Career Management" tab on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and clicking "Navy Advancement Center." Each rating's bibliographies can be found there and provide the list of information required to study for the exam.

"Sailors need to ensure they have all required topics available to study, develop a plan and stick to the bib," said Hospital Corpsman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jerry Horton, a detailer at Navy Personnel Command. "Most importantly, designate time to study each day."

### 3) Why I Serve: Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Edition / 18 JUL 14 [[VIDEO](#) / [LINK](#)]

This week's #WhyIServe submissions are from hospital corpsmen stationed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. Sailors are invited to join #WhyIServe. Get on Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram and Google+ and using the hashtag #WhyIServe, share your photos, videos and statements with us. We may pick you for our next #WhyIServe blog.

### 4) Navy sees suicide uptick despite prevention efforts / 24 JUL 14 [[LINK](#)]

The Pentagon this week released updated suicide numbers for all of the service branches for 2013. Overall, they show a decline in suicides among active-duty service members compared with 2012. Suicides decreased among Navy sailors, too, from 57 in 2012 to 43 last year.

But so far this year, the Navy has seen a marked increase - 38 confirmed or suspected suicides as of this week, according to the service. That's up roughly 50 percent compared with the same period last year. Like the military's other branches, the Navy has made suicide prevention a top priority in recent years, and after last year's decline, officials were hopeful that the efforts were working.

Despite this year's uptick, "I'm not ready to call it a reversal yet," said Rear Adm. Sean S. Buck, who oversees suicide prevention for the Navy.

### 5) NAVADMIN bi-weekly roll-up:

Every other week, we will roll up the various NAVADMINs from Naval Personnel Command. Below are the latest:

- Full Time Support Captain Line And Staff Corps Boards [[LINK](#)]
- Senate Confirmation Of Officers Selected By The FY-15 Active-Duty Captain Line, Staff Corps, And FY-15 Active-Duty Navy Commander Line Boards [[LINK](#)]

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or find it online at [www.navy.mil/cnp](http://www.navy.mil/cnp)

## 1) Improving Overseas Screening Process / 24 JUL 14 [\[LINK\]](#)

By Rear Adm. Dave Steindl, Commander Navy Personnel Command

For the past year, in all hands calls and on social media, CNP and other leaders have heard concerns from Sailors, families and commands about our overseas screening process. Individual issues ranged from inconsistencies between different homeports, to the timeline and the effect on Sailors' ability to plan a move.

COs and CMCs raised questions regarding what would happen when a Sailor or family didn't screen; would the billet be suppressed, did the command have to start all over, would there be a manning gap?

In direct response to this feedback we convened an overseas screening working group that included representations from the fleet, DC, Millington, the medical world and overseas commands.

I know, to those of us who have served for many years, creating a working group sounds bureaucratic and not like something that would make life easier, I am happy to report that this is not the case.

The working group's mission was to reduce manning gaps caused by overseas screening failures and most importantly—reduce the stress on Sailors and families.

The group recommended two immediate initiatives, which CNP approved and will be pushed via NAVADMIN in early August.

\*\*\*To provide more lead time, a Sailor who is identified for an overseas billet will receive a "Letter of Intent" from Navy Personnel Command, authorizing the Sailor to immediately begin the overseas screening process to include applying for passports and visas.

We estimate this will give most Sailors a 90-day head start on overseas screening compared to current policy. It also means that overseas screenings will routinely be completed before orders are released.

Having more time allows for more flexibility to work out unforeseen issues and will greatly ease the burden on you and family.

\*\*\*To keep the process moving and to prevent delays, Sailors must complete their overseas screening within 30 days of receiving the letter and families must complete screenings within 60 days.

If Sailors don't complete their screenings within that window, they will automatically be reassigned to a needs-of-the-Navy billet INCONUS.

This may seem harsh, but setting this tripwire increases accountability for both the Sailor and the detaching command, and adds additional time to identify a suitable replacement. The TYCOM and ISIC will be added to the overseas screening notification process to further increase visibility/accountability for command leadership. However, knowing that delays are sometimes unavoidable, waiver requests will certainly be considered on a case by case basis.

I recognize that these changes don't solve all of our issues, but based on your feedback, I believe they provide the needed time and accountability that the current process lacks. Our personnel team will continue to work with the Fleet and BUMED to further improve the process. We will share information as more changes are made—please continue to provide feedback.

## **2) Gain an Edge - Prepare Now for Advancement Exam / 24 JUL 14 [\[LINK\]](#)**

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Christopher Marshall, Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

Sailors looking to make the most of their career should prepare now for the September advancement exams, according to detailers here.

Exams take place in March and September for Sailors aspiring to achieve the ranks of petty officer third class through petty officer first class. The chief petty officer exam occurs every year in January. The number of Sailors who advance to the next rank fluctuates every cycle; it also varies between the different rates.

"In preparation for your exam and after determining eligibility, you should print out the most current bibliography from your rate and read over it in its entirety," said Hospital Corpsman First Class (SW/AW/FMF) Jerry R. Horton, an HM detailer at Navy Personnel Command. "The bib tells you what you need to study."

Sailors should start preparing for the exam by navigating to the "Career Management" tab on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) and clicking "Navy Advancement Center." Each rating's bibliographies can be found there and provide the list of information required to study for the exam.

"Sailors need to ensure they have all required topics available to study, develop a plan and stick to the bib," said Horton. "Most importantly, designate time to study each day."

Once Sailors know what resources and study materials are available to them, they can begin using websites such as Navy Personnel Command (NPC) ([www.npc.navy.mil](http://www.npc.navy.mil)), the Navy Advancement site ([www.navyadvancement.com](http://www.navyadvancement.com)), the Navy-wide Advancement Exam Prep ([www.navybmr.com](http://www.navybmr.com)) and Google to find the documents listed on the bibs. If all else fails, they can turn to lead or assistant lead petty officer for help.

For more information on the Navy Advancement Center, visit <https://www.nko.navy.mil>.

For more news from Navy Personnel Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/npc/](http://www.navy.mil/local/npc/).

## **3) Why I Serve: Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Edition / 18 JUL 14 [\[VIDEO\]](#) / [\[LINK\]](#)**

On any given day there are more than 380,000 Sailors, active-duty and Reserve, ready to defend America, around the world and around the clock. From diverse backgrounds, they join the Navy to serve their country with honor, courage and commitment.

For each Sailor, the drive to serve is different.

The #WhyIServe campaign provides our Sailors an opportunity to share their personal "why I serve" statements. This week's #WhyIServe submissions are from hospital corpsmen stationed at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

This medical center has nearly 8,500 dedicated staff members who make it their daily mission to serve our nation's active duty military, returning war heroes, veterans, their families and our Nation's leaders.



Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Alexander Ruschetti, from Hudson, N.Y. shares his #WhyIServe statement from the Naval Postgraduate Dental School in Bethesda, Md.

Sailors are invited to join #WhyIServe. Get on Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram and Google+ and using the hashtag #WhyIServe, share your photos, videos and statements with us. We may pick you for our next #WhyIServe blog!

#### **4) Navy sees suicide uptick despite prevention efforts / 24 JUL 14 [\[LINK\]](#)**

By Corinne Reilly, The Virginian-Pilot

After a drop in 2013, suicides among Navy sailors have increased sharply so far this year.

The Pentagon this week released updated suicide numbers for all of the service branches for 2013. Overall, they show a decline in suicides among active-duty service members compared with 2012. Suicides decreased among Navy sailors, too, from 57 in 2012 to 43 last year.

But so far this year, the Navy has seen a marked increase - 38 confirmed or suspected suicides as of this week, according to the service. That's up roughly 50 percent compared with the same period last year. The 2014 number is preliminary, as some deaths are still being investigated.

Like the military's other branches, the Navy has made suicide prevention a top priority in recent years, and after last year's decline, officials were hopeful that the efforts were working.

Despite this year's uptick, "I'm not ready to call it a reversal yet," said Rear Adm. Sean S. Buck, who oversees suicide prevention for the Navy.

Buck said in an interview that officials are watching the count closely and scrutinizing each case, and so far, nothing has indicated a reason for the spike. "We're not seeing any common denominator among these 38," he said.

For the most part, Buck said, this year's deaths appear to have been prompted by circumstances that commonly precede suicide among both sailors and civilians: marital, financial or legal problems; or what officials describe as a "fall from glory" - for example, a missed promotion at work or a major mistake that leads to removal from a leadership position.

The Navy has added suicide prevention programs and mental health specialists, and it is taking steps to reduce sailors' stress, especially among those who deploy.

About a year and a half ago, the service created a task force charged with building sailors' resiliency. Emotional resiliency can be learned, Buck said, and research has linked it to decreased suicide risk.

Earlier this year, the Navy began requiring sailors in deploying units to complete a four-hour training that used to be voluntary. It gives them tools for managing stress and teaches leaders to recognize signs of a potential suicide, Buck said.

The service also recently hired nearly two dozen "resiliency counselors" - civilian mental health workers who deploy with crews aboard aircraft carriers and large-deck amphibious ships.

Between 2012 and 2013, suicides among active-duty service members dropped by nearly 19 percent, from 319 to 259, according to the Pentagon. Among National Guard and Reserve members, they increased, from 203 to 220.

Besides the Navy, the Air Force also has seen an uptick in suicides so far this year, according to numbers reported by The Associated Press. Among soldiers and Marines, suicides have gone down in 2014.

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